INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

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Distribution of *Letter*

The N.C.A. Executive Committee has passed the following resolution covering procedure for distribution of the INFORMATION LETTER:

RESOLVED, That the distribution of the INFORMATION LETTER be restricted primarily to Association members and to members of allied industries which assist in financing the Association's activities; that each member of the Association be furnished such number of copies as may be required to meet the needs of regular and full-time members of its staff and its branch plants; that the LETTER be mailed first class and that one copy be sent by airmail to each member company which would not otherwise receive it by Monday following the Saturday on which it is published; that, in the discretion of the Secretary, the LETTER may be furnished to State association secretaries, government officials, trade journals or others who grant reciprocal services or who, through receipt of the LETTER, are enabled better to assist the Association in carrying on its work.

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CPA will continue the present controls (Conservation Order L-103) on the manufacture of glass containers because of the present tin shortage and the production delays caused by the coal and railroad strikes.

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A hearing was held by the U. S. Maritime Commission on May 22 concerning the application of the War Shipping Administration to increase the freight rates to and from Alaska.

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USDA this week mailed all packers of canned continental salmon contract and offer forms. Similar forms covering government purchases of Pacific Coast mackerel will be mailed next week.

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A proposal was made at the meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization this week that the Combined Food Board be expanded into a new agency to be known as the International Emergency Food Council with a membership of at least 20 nations.

Canners Urge Prompt Issuance of 1946 Government Orders

In the proceedings of the mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Canners Association, it was made apparent that canners are eager to obtain price regulations promptly and an early decision on the proposed subsidy program so that they may carry out their plans for all-out production. It was reported during the two-day session of the Board at Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D. C., on May 22 and 23, that the Canning Industry Advisory Committee has passed a resolution favoring the prompt issuance of presently proposed 1946 pricing regulations. These, as explained by OPA price officials who addressed the Board meeting, are expected to be issued and effective on or about June 1 and will include adjustments to take care of canners' labor and sugar cost increases. The Advisory Committee's resolution contained the further statement "as to cost increases with respect to cases, labels, cans, freight or other increases the total effects of which are at present not determinable, and which the Committee feels should be reflected in selling prices, it is hereby further resolved that a special committee from the Advisory Committee be appointed to work with the OPA on amendments to reflect such increased costs in selling prices at the appropriate time."

N.C.A.'s 1947 Convention to Return to Atlantic City

Just prior to adjournment the Board discussed Convention plans and voted that the 33rd Annual Convention of the National Canners Association be held at Atlantic City the week of January 19, 1947. This action followed reports to the Directors by President Fred A. Stare and Secretary Carlos Campbell to the effect that no other city investigated is able to house the Convention next year and that the Atlantic City hotel situation has improved since last February. The motion to take the Convention there was made by A. E. Coddington and seconded by Harold Patterson. The motion setting the date was made by Robert A. Friend, seconded by William R. Eddington, and a third motion dealing with the Convention empowered President Stare to appoint a Convention Committee to work with the staff on Convention arrangements. This was moved by W. E. Beach and seconded by Earle Johnson.

Opening Session of Directors' Meeting

President Stare opened the Wednesday morning meeting of the Board of Directors with an outline of the work of the Association's Committee on Committees and warmly praised this Committee for

its part in helping to set forth the procedure for naming the N. C. A. committees to serve during 1946. Mr. Stare explained that the Board of Directors, by its approval of the report of the Committee on Committees at the meeting of the Board on February 3, in Atlantic City, established policies to govern committee appointments and criteria to be used in the selection of committee personnel. (This report was covered in detail on page 179 of the INFORMATION LETTER for April 27.)

Following President Stare's opening remarks, Marc C. Hutchinson, Chairman of the Administrative Council, upon the recommendation of the Council, urged the Board to change the procedure with regard to handling the Reserve Fund Securities of the Association and further recommended that the Trustees of the N.C.A. Retirement Plan Fund and the Trustees of the Consumer Complaint Protective Fund be permitted to place their respective securities in any safe-keeping accounts in such banks as they may designate. On the motion of George H. Hall, which was seconded by S. R. Clevenger, the Board passed two resolutions to care for these changes in the Association's fiduciary procedures.

A detailed analysis of the 1946 budget and the revised system of accounts, which was recently placed in effect by the Assistant Treasurer R. F. Alexander, was explained by Secretary Campbell. Mr. Campbell said the new bookkeeping system had been recommended by the Association's auditor and had received the approval of the Administrative Council. The Board, on the motion of William H. Foster, which was seconded by William Varney, approved the revised accounting system and moved to accept Mr. Campbell's report on the budget.

Next on the program, was a brief report by Chairman Herbert F. Krimendahl of the N.C.A. Planning Committee. Mr. Krimendahl discussed the activities of the Committee with regard to conferences with OPA and USDA representatives concerning the 1946 pricing and subsidy programs for canned foods. Mr. Krimendahl then turned the meeting over to S. R. Smith, Chief of USDA's Fruit and Vegetable Branch.

Mr. Smith summarized USDA's 1946 program for canned fruits and vegetables stating that the present program was "trimmed down considerably" from former years and that the USDA was anxious "to get out of the canned fruit and vegetable picture as quickly as possible" and leave the canning industry to the settlement of its own problems "without government interference." Mr. Smith emphasized again that there would be no support prices on canned vegetables during 1946 and called attention to the schedule of designated prices announced to the canning industry at the Atlantic City convention, which he said were placed in effect this year purely as a basis for calculating ceiling prices. (See INFORMATION LETTER for February 12, page 70.) The Agriculture official stated that the Department has no intention of using set-aside orders for forcing sales of canned foods to government agencies but that "it is up to the canning industry to cooperate with the Government by helping these agencies with their procurement of canned foods."

1946 Subsidy Program Discussed

Leonard Fenn, Chief of the Vegetable Section of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, who followed Mr. Smith on the program, discussed the designated prices for vegetables for canning and outlined the interim subsidy program for canned vegetables announced by USDA last week. (See INFORMATION LETTER for May 18, page 209.) Mr. Fenn said that it is impossible to discuss any plans for a subsidy program for 1946 until the question of subsidies had been fully settled by Congress. He assured the group that in the event another subsidy program was placed in effect, full details of the program would be made known immediately and that every effort would be made to expedite the payment of subsidy claims under such a program.

New contracts must be signed before canners can make application for the interim subsidy payments. The contracts will be ready by the middle of June, Mr. Fenn promised. (Further explanation of the 1946 interim subsidy program may be found on page 228 of this issue.)

Donald M. Rubel, Chief of the Deciduous Fruit Section, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, briefly addressed the Board stating that the USDA's program with regard to canned fruits this year would consist mainly of a schedule of designated prices on fruits for canning, which, he said, should be issued within the next few days.

The next government speaker on the program, Merritt W. Baker, Assistant Director of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, and Chief of USDA's Regulatory and Inspection Service, assured the Board that everything possible was being done by the Department to work with industry to achieve increased production of quality fresh and processed fruits and vegetables. He emphatically stated that the Department was not and would not promote "through propaganda or otherwise any specific type of labeling." (Full text of Mr. Baker's remarks may be found on page 226 of this issue.)

Wednesday Luncheon Session

At the luncheon session of the Board, Price Administrator Paul Porter called for the canning industry's cooperation in helping the OPA with its fight against what he termed "the pressures for inflation." The canning industry, Mr. Porter said, was an outstanding example of the ability of Government and industry to work together on problems affecting both industry groups and the public at large. He praised the work of the canned food Industry Advisory Committees and their role in helping OPA establish price ceilings throughout the war.

"The next 30 days are going to be very important in the history of this country," the Price Administrator said, "for by then we will know whether we will have an orderly program for the decontrol of ceilings or whether we will be engaged in the greatest inflationary era this country has ever known."

Discussion on Pricing

The Wednesday afternoon session of the Board was given over to a discussion of the pricing program for 1946 with a group of OPA officials present to explain the regulation now in preparation and to answer questions. This group, introduced to the canners by Price Executive E. F. Phelps, Jr., consisted of: Wayne Rice, Wholesale and Retail Fruit and Vegetable Branch; Luther Long, Fish Price Section; Harold Webner, who handles miscellaneous dry grocery items; Charles Carry, Head of the Processed Fruits and Vegetables Section; Carl Lovegren, presently acting as an OPA consultant; Dorothy Bacon, who handles labor cost matters; Katherine Hall of the OPA legal staff; and Robbert Thorne of Mr. Carry's office.

Mr. Phelps first restated what he told the Atlantic City Convention, namely that the established price margins would be continued and that provisions for wage increases are being made. The regulation, he said is so written as to apply with or without subsidies. If subsidies are withdrawn, ceilings will be increased by the amount of the subsidy involved. Mr. Phelps indicated that the price agency has drawn up its canned vegetable

regulations which should be released on or about June 1.

Regarding the possibility of the Interstate Commerce Commission granting the freight rate increase requested by the railroads, Mr. Phelps stated that OPA is aware that a decision will have to be made quickly as to whether such an adjustment can be reflected in the ceiling.

Mr. Carry described the manner in which increases in canners' labor costs will be reflected in the price ceilings of the forthcoming regulation. It will contain tables, he stated, which will set forth dollars-and-cents factors, which, in the case of products under Pricing Method No. 1, may be added to the prices for each one cent per-hour increase resulting from approved basic wage rate increases for unskilled female labor that have been granted since January 1, 1944. For products under Pricing Method No. 2 a percentage factors has been established. Mr. Carry explained the procedure as follows: "The canner starts with his 1945 price ceiling. From this he deducts the permitted labor adjustments he took last year. To the resulting sum he adds the new factor shown in the table. In the case of Products under Pricing Method No. 2 he multiplies the amount obtained from the subtractions of last year's increases from his 1945 ceiling by a percentage factor given in the tables."

Increased sugar costs incurred in packing fruit, tomato catsup and chili sauce also are provided for in the new regulation, Mr. Carry stated. These will apply if the canner's inventory of sugar purchased prior to February 10 (the date of the price increase in sugar) falls below a nominal amount to be designated in the regulation. Or the canner may elect to make payment to the Commodity Credit Corporation if on the effective date of the regulation he has an inventory of sugar, purchased at pre-February 10 prices, which is in excess of the nominal amount to be designated. In such payment, under terms of the proposed regulation, he is granted forgiveness of the designated nominal amount, and pays CCC on the amount in excess of that figure, using a computation method which will be specified in the regulation.

No relief is contemplated as regards sugar cost adjustments for canners of sweet corn, it was reported.

Sugar Allotment Report

Chairman H. E. Gray of the Sugar Advisory Committee to the Planning Committee reported that increases in the Cuban and Puerto Rican sugar crops failed to materialize and there is therefore little prospect of an increase in the sugar allotment to industrial users over the 90 percent of 1941 now prevailing. The sugar crop from Cuba this year was fully 200,000 tons lower and 100,000 tons lower in Puerto Rico. This coupled with a loss from frost of 32,000 acres of sugar beets in this country, which will result in both lower sugar beet tonnage and lower sugar content in the beets that are harvested, presents no encouragement for the industry, he explained.

Reports also were made at the Thursday morning sessions by the Board Apportionment, Manpower and Foreign Trade Committees. These are reproduced on pages 224, 225, and 226 respectively.

As chairman of the Building Committee, G. Sherwin Haxton reported that several sites for a new location for Association headquarters have been inspected and described them, but that no purchase has as yet been made, partly because at the present time building permits are not obtainable. To take care of expanding staff needs in the interim, Mr. Haxton reported the acquisition, on a three-year lease basis of additional space in the building immediately adjoining the present site on the north.

Discussion of suggested change in the Association By-laws was then held and President Stare was authorized to appoint a committee to study the proposals and report at the next meeting of the Board.

Following discussion of the cost study requested by USDA and being made in some canning sections for USDA by OPA auditors, the following resolution was made by Roy Lucks and seconded by Louis H. Schlecht:

RESOLVED, that after consideration of the matter of cost studies which the Department of Agriculture has asked the Office of Price Administration auditors to make, it is the sense of the Board of Directors that no useful purpose will be served by making such studies at this time and under present conditions, and that the Department of Agriculture be requested immediately to state to the Office of Price Administration that such information need not be obtained.

Thursday Luncheon Session

At the closing luncheon session, the Board heard a plea by N. E. Dodd, Under Secretary of Agriculture, for increased food production during 1946 as a means of aiding famine relief throughout the world. The full text of Mr. Dodd's address appears on page 222. Following the Agriculture official's talk, the Board discussed 1947 Convention plans and adjourned. A summary of the Board's action is contained on page 219.

Council and Other Committees

Meetings of the Planning Committee, Board Apportionment Committee and Administrative Council were held during the two or three days before the Board convened. E. A. Meyer, Assistant Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration of USDA, and Charles Carry, Head of the Processed Fruits and Vegetable Section of OPA, reported on the 1946 program of their respective agencies, details of which are covered elsewhere in this issue. Leonard Fenn of USDA explained the details of the operation of the interim subsidy provision, reported in last week's INFORMATION LETTER. Planning Committee members voted to urge on the Canning Industry Advisory Committee, which was scheduled to meet the following day, that a special subcommittee be appointed to take up the matter of price adjustments for cost increases not covered in the proposed regulation. A resolution to this effect, made by the Advisory Committee, is reported on page 219.

The Board Apportionment sessions were devoted to studying a pattern for setting up equitable representation on the Board of Directors and the chairman's report, recommending a procedure, may be found on page 224.

The Administrative Council considered the Association Budget and the revised accounting system and heard reports of the Legislative, the Planning and Manpower Committees. These were in effect the same reports as were later reported to the Board and are covered in this issue.

Olive Production in Spain

Spain's 1945 crop of green olives for pickling is expected to be 3,200,000 to 3,500,000 gallons of queen olives and 5,600,000 to 6,400,000 gallons of manzanilla olives, according to the Office of International Trade, Department of Commerce. This compares with a 1944 production of 3,848,640 gallons of queen olives and 4,853,920 gallons of manzanilla olives.

Of the 1945 crop, 2,880,000 gallons of queen olives and 4,800,000 gallons of manzanilla olives are expected to be suitable for export to the United States.

CANNERS CAN HELP INCREASE WORLD FOOD SUPPLY

By N. E. DODD
Under Secretary of Agriculture

Earlier in your meetings, gentlemen, you have heard from other men in the Department of Agriculture. I hope these men have adequately covered the ground on the Department's 1946 program, and that the information you have received from them has been valuable.

For my own part, I should like to go rather generally over the entire food situation, and touch on those points of it which directly concern the canning industry.

In the first place I want to emphasize how strongly I feel, and the Department of Agriculture feels, that food processing is an integral part of our marketing mechanism. I cannot stress this too greatly. The operations of you food processors are absolutely essential to this country's marketing system.

We have obvious, everyday examples of this, but I sometimes feel that the general consuming public is not consciously aware of it. For instance, the man who sips his tomato juice at breakfast probably doesn't give a thought to how it happens that he is able to have that juice for breakfast. He just takes it for granted.

But that's something that bears consideration. Take a look at the California fruit industry. That's a huge thing. But if it weren't for the canners, the freezers and the dryers, the California fruit industry could not exist. The industry has been built up, literally, by the processors being right there to build it up. Without the processors that fruit industry would be confined to fresh fruits only, and it would certainly be a midget industry compared with what it is now. This is true also of the other concentrated commercial fruit canning areas, as well as in the many highly concentrated commercial vegetable canning areas of the country.

That same thing holds true of the milk industry. Take the Minnesota, the Wisconsin, the Iowa milk areas, for example. The processors enter heavily into that picture, particularly in the field of butter, cheese, dried and canned milk. In fact, they enter so heavily into the picture that without them the milk economy could not be sustained at its present levels.

It's for reasons such as these, the fact that they have helped build up certain phases of agriculture to their present levels, that processors ordinarily think of themselves as being an actual part of agriculture, rather than a part of industry.

The Department of Agriculture is strongly aware of the interdependence of the farmer who produces the food and the processor who preserves it for later use by the consumer. For this reason much of the information concerning certain programs of the Department must be channelled as swiftly and directly to food processors as it is to producers. Both have a major stake in these programs. That is why the Department has been diligent in keeping you processors as conversant with world food needs as producers.

It is important that you people know that food is desperately needed to save 800 million people from literal starvation in other lands. It is important that you know this world need for food, and that you be acquainted with the programs of the Department that are designed to meet this need, for these are all things that affect the canning industry directly or indirectly.

Many European people are living on a diet of 1,200 to 1,500 calories a day. That is, the best fed people of these starving countries eat this much. And let me remind you, an average of 2,200 calories per person per day is the minimum in a nation for healthy human beings. Here in the United States today we are consuming approximately 3,300 calories per day. That's the situation. And in view of this situation we recognize that we must ship abroad as much cereal as possible.

In connection with this I might mention corn for canning. As you know, field corn prices have been rather sharply increased. Naturally, in some areas, this increase in present ceilings will have a direct effect on the price canners will have to pay in competition to obtain vegetables for canning, particularly sweet corn. This could mean there will be less sweet corn in cans in the United States. For canners this isn't the happiest of situations, but it is an inevitable situation that must be met in view of the acreage demands for competing crops.

This does not mean consideration has not been given to price increases for other foods, but it has been decided that there will be no increases in the designated prices of sweet corn and other vegetables for processing. Stated simply, the general program is to get grain for export; it's not a program to get more sweet corn in cans.

However, there are counterbalancing factors in the outlook. There will be even less military demand for canned fruits and vegetables this year than there was last. That means civilian consumers will not feel too great a pinch. Contributing to the domestic supply is the fact that direct demands for canned fruits and vegetables for relief shipment abroad have been practically nil. UNRRA and foreign countries have made practically no request for such shipments, figuring that other things, such as cereal grains, are more economical on a per nutritive unit cost basis than the canned goods.

Anticipating a shortage of cereal and livestock, with less grain to go into animals as feed, the consumer demand for canned fruits, vegetables and other foods should be heavy. Housewives, as seen by the disappearance into consumption this spring, are buying canned goods heavily. As they encounter shorter supplies of meat, shorter supplies of cereal goods, they will be buying more canned foods to balance and amplify the family diet.

And right on that note we might take a brief glimpse at what the outlook here in the United States is for the canning industry in the years ahead. The canning industry has kept pace step by step with the increased demands brought on by the war. Production of vegetables, in particular, has mounted steadily.

This dovetails with the Department's long range programs for a more balanced food production, and with its efforts to improve the national diet. It is not enough that people eat enough bulk of certain foods to stave off the pangs of immediate hunger. It is necessary that people eat a balanced diet, that children be fed the proper proportions of nutritional foods with the vitamins necessary to their growth from sturdy childhood to strong adults.

A sidelight on this is the Department's School Lunch Program, where every effort is made to amplify the home diets of school children and to provide them with the nutritional foods they have in many cases been compelled through economic circumstance to do without. And on all these school lunch programs fruits and vegetables have always been high on the list of preferred foods for in fruits and vegetables are the vitamins needed by youngsters' growing bodies.

Besides immediately feeding children this school lunch program has had a more far reaching effect. It has taught them what foods are best for them nutritionally, and this knowledge the school children have in turn taken home to their parents.

It seems to me that the canning industry must at this time recognize this strong trend toward more balanced family diets. Emphasis nationally has been on nutritional diets during these last several years and this emphasis will be continued. This is particularly true of the present time and of immediate future years when food, or the lack of it, is being so forcefully presented to the world as the leading news topic of the day.

Consumer income prospects for the coming year are good. This means that consumers will be in a position to buy the available foods they want. To me this sounds an optimistic note for the canning industry. The people of the United States have been schooled during recent years to well balanced eating. This means an increased demand for citrus fruits, tomatoes, other

uits and vegetables as well as dairy oducts and other of the so-called otective foods. And the programs the Department of Agriculture are geared to this same theme.

This will afford a continued outlet r a high level of production in the nning industry, and I believe the nning industry could well get be- nd many of these programs, such as e school lunch and other related ograms, with lasting and permanent nefits accruing to the canning indus- y as the result of such efforts.

The canning industry for several ars has been subjected to govern- ental controls. This has been a asure of necessity, but I am sure at as government control measures e lifted the industry will be able to meet its problems as they arise, as it met them in the years before controls were in effect.

While the growth of the canning industry has been spectacular in the last 20 years, whether the canning industry can continue to forge ahead depends entirely upon industry's own efforts to meet the challenge of full employment and a high level of industrial activity.

The canning industry also in these years ahead should continue in its efforts to bring about constant improvement in the quality of its products. In these efforts I can assure the canning industry the continuing and friendly cooperation of the Department of Agriculture.

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

By WALTER L. GRAEFE, Chairman

Since the last report of the Legis- tive Committee, Congress has con- ued to ignore the administration's ogram for legislation. Although nsiderable progress has been made some legislation, no final action has en taken on any important bill di- tly affecting the canning industry. ngthy committee hearings and dila- y tactics on the floor of both houses ve delayed final action on many bills.

Wage and Hour Legislation

Probably the most important piece pending legislation from the stand- nt of the canning industry is the oposed amendments to the Fair bor Standards Act. Passing what familiar to you, I can report that e Pepper bill was amended almost yond recognition on the floor of the nate after extensive debate. An al- rnate proposal by Senators Ellender d Ball was substituted for the orig- al bill, and the substitute itself was ended extensively before final pas- ge by the Senate. Senator Russell's endment to include the cost of farm bor in determining parity prices was cked on after a strong fight by ad- inistration forces to kill the amend- ent.

The wage-hour bill as it passed the nate on April 5 contained the fol- wing provisions: (1) The minimum ge would be raised to 65 cents six nths after the effective date of the t; (2) Existing exemptions for the dustry would be left unchanged ex- pt that the "area of production" as plied to first processing in Sections c) and 13(a)(10) would be defined the Secretary of Agriculture rather an the Administrator; (3) Seamen uld be subject to the minimum wage ovisions but would continue to be empt from the maximum hour pro- sions; (4) The prohibition of child bor would be strengthened by pro- ding a flat prohibition against the ployment of child labor in com- rce; (5) The Russell amendment would require farm labor costs to be included in the computation of parity prices.

The wage-hour bill as it passed the Senate was referred to the House Labor Committee. The Committee has held several executive sessions on this legislation, but as yet it has not reported out any bill. It is generally expected that it will report out a bill providing for an increase in the minimum wage to 65 cents, with no provision affecting coverage. However, a bi-partisan bloc of 90 Congressmen under the chairmanship of Congressmen Outland of California and Ramey of Ohio has been formed to back legislation similar to the original Pepper bill. The group advocates the extension of the coverage of the Act to groups of employees now wholly or partially exempted from the Act, such as cannery employees, and is backing a minimum wage of 75 cents after four years.

The President has threatened to veto any wage-hour bill which includes the Russell-Pace farm parity amendment. However, it is possible that the Russell-Pace parity amendment may pass as a separate bill, which would eliminate the necessity for a veto of the wage-hour bill.

Extension of the Second War Powers Act

The Second War Powers Act is the source of authority for priority and allocation powers of the Civilian Production Administration of short commodities such as tin. A bill to extend the allocation and priority powers for scarce materials under this Act until March 31, 1947, and for building materials until June 30, 1947, passed the House on March 15. The bill is still in Senate committee but is expected to be reported out in the near future.

Agricultural Adjustment Act Amendment

The Flannagan bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act providing for marketing agreements has been reported out of the House Agriculture Committee. Under present law canned fruits and vegetables with the exception of olives and asparagus may not be made subject to marketing agreements. The Flannagan bill as reported from committee provides that marketing agreements may be extended to additional agricultural commodities when the majority of producers in an area favor it. As the bill now stands, it would be possible to extend marketing agreements to canned fruits and vegetables. Marketing agreements would include numerous regulations, such as limitation of production, allocation of purchases and markets, and establishing reserves. The bill provides that marketing agreements shall be used to establish and maintain standards of quality and maturity and grading and inspection requirements. Canned fruits and vegetables, if covered by marketing orders, would thus be subject to mandatory government grading. Your Committee has been informed that there is no intent to cover canned fruits and vegetables under marketing agreements, but such intent is not made clear in the present version of the bill. The Committee believes that this ambiguity should be cleared up, and is following the progress of this legislation closely.

Congressman Flannagan has also sponsored legislation for a school lunch program which is about ready for passage.

United States Employment Service

You will recall that in spite of the President's request that USES be kept under Federal control during the reconversion period, determined efforts have been made by Congress to return the employment service to the States. On January 29 the House passed H. R. 4437 which provides for the return of USES to the States by June 30, 1946. The bill, as reported by the Senate Education and Labor Committee, directs the return of local and State employment offices to the States before December 31 of this year, but provides for a permanent USES in the Department of Labor. The Senate Committee version provides for close cooperation between the State and Federal unemployment programs. Of special interest to the canning industry is the proposal of the bill to set up strict minimum standards to be used in referring an unemployed person to a job. Such a standard would perpetuate the practice which has existed under federal operation of permitting persons who otherwise would try to get jobs to remain on the public payroll.

Miscellaneous Bills

There are various pending bills which affect the canning industry at least indirectly. The Kefauver bill, H. R. 5535, amends the Clayton Act to prohibit a corporation from acquir-

ing any of the assets of another corporation when the effect of such acquisition would be to lessen competition in interstate commerce. The bill, which was reported out of committee in March, leaves ambiguous the meaning of the word "assets."

Labor

Recent strikes have centered Congressional attention on the Case labor disputes bill. The bill passed the House on February 15 and was buried in the Senate Education and Labor Committee for two months. The Case bill, as passed by the House, provides for a Federal Mediation Board which shall assume jurisdiction of labor disputes. A 30-day cooling-off period after the Board has taken jurisdiction of a labor dispute is provided for, during which time labor may not strike and employers may not conduct a lockout. The bill also prohibits any violence in picketing, makes secondary boycotts unlawful, and provides that supervisory employees shall not have the status of employees under the National Labor Relations Act. The Case bill, as reported out of the Senate Education and Labor Committee, provides for a Mediation Board which may only offer its services in labor disputes. Its only other major provision is a ban against any interference with the delivery of perishable farm products to market. The majority of the Senate is apparently dissatisfied with this watered-down version of the Case bill, and numerous amendments have been offered to strengthen the bill. Opponents of additional curbs on labor have been conducting a minor filibuster to stave off any vote on these amendments. Although sentiment is strong for additional restrictions on labor, there is no agreement on the form amendments should take.

Price Control and Subsidies

The battle over the extension of price control and subsidy legislation has dominated the legislative scene during the past four months. During this time the Administration has attempted to conduct an orderly retreat from the line against inflation. Part of this retreat is reflected in the new wage-price policy under which approved wage increases may be used as the basis for price increases. In actual practice most wage increases have been automatically approved by the National Wage Stabilization Board. OPA has issued numerous price suspension orders on commodities which do not substantially affect the cost of living in an effort to placate the rising sentiment against price controls.

The strength of the opposition to continuation of price control and subsidies was revealed in the price control bill which passed the House on April 18.

The bill, which Price Administrator Porter termed a repeal of price control, contained the following provisions: (1) The Wolcott-Andresen amendment, which provides that no maximum price shall be established which does not reflect to producers, processors and distributors the cost of producing or distributing a commodity plus a reasonable profit; (2) The Gossett decontrol amendment, which provides that price controls on non-agricultural commodities shall be removed when the volume of production of such commodity for a period of 12 months equals its volume of production for the year ending June 30, 1941. In the case of agricultural commodities the bill provides price controls shall be removed when the Secretary of Agriculture determines that supply of a commodity is equal to domestic consumption or that production for a 12 month period equals the production in the year ending June 30, 1941; (3) The Wolcott amendment to liquidate subsidies, which lays down a rigid schedule calling for 25 percent subsidy cuts every 45 days and requires that corresponding price increases be granted when subsidies are reduced; (4) The Flannagan amendment prohibiting any meat subsidy payments after June 30; (5) Provisions prohibiting any maximum average price plan and provisions prohibiting any reduction in established mark-ups in certain industries.

Administration officials have contended these amendments would sweep away most price controls and would make any administration of the remaining controls impossible.

Should the House bill become law, OPA would be forced to abandon entirely its policy of cost absorption, which representatives of industry have contended all along has retarded production. Although many business interests have hailed the House version of price control extension as a great step forward, there appears to be a general feeling in the Senate that the House bill is too drastic.

The Senate Banking and Currency Committee held public hearings for a period of about three weeks on Senator Wagner's bill to extend the price control and subsidy legislation until June 30, 1947, without amendment. The testimony at these hearings was substantially a repetition of the testimony before the House committee. Although administration representatives had rather rough going at times, they were accorded somewhat more sympathetic treatment than they received from the House committee. For the past several weeks the Senate committee has been holding executive sessions to work out decontrol amendments. The Committee has voted, however, to extend price control legislation for a year, and has approved an amendment to give the Secretary of Agriculture the power to decide what food items will be controlled.

It appears likely that the Senate committee will report out a bill providing for decontrol in a less drastic form than the House version. There is strong opposition in the Senate to the continuation of subsidies, but it is improbable that all subsidy payments will be terminated on June 30. Whether subsidies on canned vegetables will be continued is anyone's guess.

In March, Congress passed a joint resolution providing that subsidy funds already appropriated could be used for 1946 crop program operations for sugar and vegetables processed before July 1 of this year. Support prices and subsidy payments for canned vegetables processed prior to July 1 have recently been announced under the authority of this Act.

Following the presentation of the above report, discussion was had on the current jurisdictional strike which has affected several of the California canneries. It was felt that provisions in the Case Bill would tend to correct the situation and prevent its occurrence in other sections of the country if the measure is passed.

REPORT OF THE BOARD APPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE

By W. F. DIETRICH, Chairman

Upon direction of the Board at its last meeting a special committee on Board Apportionment met at the N.C.A. headquarters on May 20. The committee was assisted by an Advisory Committee and members of the N.C.A. staff.

The committee discussed the devising of some formula type of program which would determine the Board Apportionment. This approach was discussed at length. There were, however, a great many complicating factors. For instance, in devising a formula should we consider the number of firms, the number of factories, the volume of output, etc.? Should these factors be considered for the industry as a whole or only for that part represented by members of the Association? Should there be a distinction made between seasonal and nonseasonal items?

It was our conclusion that while the development of a formula was entirely possible, it did not appear to us that this was actually required to meet the present situation. The present membership apportionment of the Board has been evolved over a period of many years of Association activities. As the industry has grown in new areas and new products have been packed, this additional production has been given representation. We felt, therefore, that we could best accomplish the purpose for which our

committee was appointed if we accepted what had been done in the past and set up some rather simple yardsticks for determining the need for additional representation at the present time, and in the future.

Over a period of years certain customs have developed in the naming of the Nominating Committee and the practice of breaking this Committee down into what amounted to subcommittees representing the various canning States, or, in some cases, canning regions comprising several States. It is our opinion that this program has served very well in insuring all segments of the industry a fair representation on the Board and we believe this program should be continued except that since the sea food packers usually do not come in contact with the packers of other products in their areas, that in the future the various groups of sea food packers be given a direct opportunity of nominating representatives to the Board.

We respectfully submit the following program:

1. That rather than to undertake a complete revision of the basis for representatives on the Board of Directors, which would be extremely complicated, the representation be determined on a State or regional basis following historical custom. (The Committee on Nominations has power under the By-Laws to nominate any number of men for election to the Board.)

2. That in nominating State or regional candidates for membership on the Board of Directors, due consideration should be given to the size of the packers and the commodities packed in the area.

3. That adequate representation on the Board of Directors requires that each State or region shall have at least one representative for each 7,500,000 cases of member production of seasonable products. This contemplates obtaining membership production figures by State or region.

4. That any State or region producing 100,000 cases or more of member production shall be represented by at least one Board member provided that production is not subject to financial control from outside the State or region.

5. That in determining the number of representatives of each major branch of the canned sea food industry on the Board of Directors, their production figures be considered separately and be subject to the same area and production limitations that apply to all other commodities.

6. That if because of a diversity of products packed in any State or region, now or hereafter, inadequate representation results, the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, may request the nominating committee to nominate additional members.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER

By ROBERT B. HEINEY

At the Convention in Atlantic City in February, work was undertaken by the Manpower Committee on three problems. These were the retention of prisoners of war, if possible; the lifting of the ban on the employment of Mexican nationals in eight States that had been imposed by the Mexican Government; and the securing of U. S. government assistance in obtaining housing and feeding facilities for transient labor.

A number of efforts were made to retain prisoners of war for work this season in processing agricultural products. Howard Cumming, chairman of the OPA Canned Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, took the matter up with the Secretary of War in a personal interview and was informed that canners should not expect any assistance from the War Department. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson brought up the need for the retention of PW's on two occasions at Cabinet meetings. Quite a large group of Senators met and appointed a committee of five to ask both the President and the Secretary of War that prisoners be retained. None of these efforts met with success, and according to the schedule of the War Department, all prisoners of war will be out of the country by the end of June. Contracts for their employment will have terminated by June 15, and whatever use is made of them after that date will be on a day-by-day basis. The number involved at this time is about 19,000.

Following the convention in February, Chairman John F. McGovern spent quite a bit of time in Washington working on the Mexican problem. Mr. McGovern took the problem to the Mexican Embassy, secured the help of the State Department, and developed the point that any troubles that occurred in the past were not founded on employment on canning crops. Although the Department of Agriculture, the agency responsible for their use in agriculture, has made no announcement of a program for the employment of Mexican nationals this year, there are about 25,000 in the country today and more are due to arrive. The agreement under which they are being brought into the States places no restriction on their employment in the eight States that were black-listed.

Two different approaches were used in the efforts to secure government aid in securing housing and feeding facilities for migrant labor. The War Assets Administration was canvassed to see if surplus material was available. That search ended when it became apparent that priority claimants were taking all the housing and feeding equipment WAA had for disposal and that the amount WAA did have for disposal would not begin to answer the needs. WAA suggested that in the case of housing, such as Army barracks, that it would be willing to lease the facilities if the National Housing Agency would temporarily lay aside their priority. A formal request to National Housing Administration was countered by NHA arranging for an inter-governmental agency meeting to look into both the housing and the feeding problem.

At the first of what developed into a series of inter-governmental agency meetings, the group was informed that surplus equipment was not available from WAA. However, at a later meeting a representative of WAA stated that WAA had more than enough to take care of 50,000 workers if a method could be worked out authorizing the sale to canners. To meet that obstacle, the Civilian Production Administration was asked by the Department of Agriculture to issue a directive to WAA establishing a priority under which WAA could sell housing and feeding equipment to canners and growers. The directive was issued and a program providing for certification by the State Farm Labor Supervisors of the U. S. Extension Service was worked out and now is in effect. To what extent the program will be effective cannot be determined at this time. It is doubtful that much benefit will come of the program because the WAA does not have the equipment in a form or shape that can be purchased as soon as it will be needed.

Meanwhile, the War Department was being sounded out to see if any possibility existed for the reinstatement of the loan programs that were in effect the past three years. Although informally advised that the War Department would not enter into a loan arrangement again, the Association wrote the Secretary of War a formal request for reinstatement of the program. The request was denied and the War Department advised that the program just outlined was under development.

In addition to working on these three specific problems, the Association has endeavored to keep the membership advised of the activities of the U. S. Employment Service and the Farm Labor Branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture through the medium of the INFORMATION LETTER. Our suggestions were sought by USES in the development of an agreement or contract of employment that agency has placed at the disposal of processors for their voluntary use in recruiting migrant labor. Contacts with these agencies constantly are maintained and when assistance has been sought by individual canners or by local or regional groups, we were and are able to be of help.

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN TRADE COMMITTEE

By GEORGE FOSTER

Since our February Convention in Atlantic City, the National Canners Association has engaged in foreign trade activities and services, with an experienced executive handling this work.

In anticipation of the part it is expected that America may play in developing freer world trade, the State Department and the Office of International Trade in the Department of Commerce have been expanding their operations. They have created numerous new divisions whose executives have been delegated to concentrate on International Trade. This is particularly true in the Commerce Department where OIT, under the direction of Arthur Paul, has organized to do an expansive job.

One of N.C.A.'s first functions has been to contact the appropriate officials in these new divisions to ascertain just who handles what—and to become favorably acquainted with responsible personnel.

Because there now seems to be definite probability—particularly since the record of Senate approval—that the British loan will be passed (according to State Department officials and Congressional party whips) it seems advisable that all divisions of the canning industry should be prepared well in advance for this event. It takes a long time to prepare factual data for which there is no precedent as to method, and this is truly a case of the highest score accruing to the group that is best prepared in advance of the game.

Our Foreign Trade Committee, therefore, has been advised of U. S. Government developments in respect to projected trade agreements, and asked to have very much in mind the need for well-organized effort when the time arrives for presenting their case to the Committee on Reciprocity Information. The functions of the CRI are to tabulate and prepare all data for the inter-departmental committee which will establish the framework for the trade agreement organization within UNO, that is, so far as American praticipation is concerned. The final reports of the Trade Agreements organization will go through the Secretary of State to the President.

The CRI will hold hearings of industrial group representatives who wish to present their briefs in respect to reciprocal tariff arrangements.

During the past week members of the N.C.A. Fish Committee were in Washington and have been informed of the Government's proposed procedure in respect to trade agreements. On Monday, E. M. Brennan, chairman of the Fish Committee, and others, together with N.C.A. staff representatives, and I met with appropriate government officials at lunch and had Harold McGowan of OIT explain the kind of information OIT would welcome from the canning industry. Mr. McGowan also stated just how the data might best be prepared.

With the information obtained from the government officials the fish committee members will return home, confer with their committees and association members, tabulate the information the Government requires and then await the opportune moment to appear in Washington again to argue their prepared briefs before the tariff experts. Similar procedure will apply to the fruit and vegetable canners who will be advised by the Foreign Trade Committee as to the need for and method of preparing trade agreements data.

During the past several weeks, the N.C.A. staff has conferred with government officials in the State and Commerce Departments urging U. S. government action to help eliminate foreign buying missions. The U. S. Government has approached 15 different foreign nations, urging the elimination of these missions and the speedy reversion to private trading along prewar lines. The best that can be said for this is that it indicates action in the right direction.

The N.C.A. staff has been contacting all appropriate government divisions and urging elimination, as rapidly as possible, of restrictive import and export controls.

N.C.A. also is keeping in close touch with the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization, whose preliminary activities are being concentrated upon the improvement of statistical information (particularly as to reliable crop reporting) throughout all agricultural countries.

USDA Grading and Inspection Services Discussed by Baker

At the meeting of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, May 22, M. W. Baker, Assistant Director of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Fruit and Vegetable Branch, in a discussion of the services rendered by that branch said:

"I want to touch briefly on the three service divisions of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch and to emphasize to you that we have nothing to sell except our service. We are interested in furnishing you the best possible inspection service that we can on both the fresh and processed products. We are interested in working with you and revising existing standards and to develop whatever new standards are necessary. All of us in the Branch are concerned about our standards, because we recognize that standards have to change from time to time and it is possible that we have not recognized the necessity of change as rapidly as we should.

"I want further to touch upon one particular point and make it emphatic and clear. We also want to be able to furnish continuous inspection service to all of you who are interested in it. We are trying to train competent inspectors. We consider that this service ends at the inspection line and at the examination of the quality of the merchandise that is in the can after final processing. All of these steps will naturally include those factors of sanitation, etc., as covered in our agreement. Naturally, we are very much interested in quality, interested in labeling, interested in those things which will benefit your industry and the consumer. But, again, let me emphasize that whatever you wish to use on that label, which is true to fact and which will benefit the consumer and your industry, is the thing we are interested in.

"I do want to say that the Fruit and Vegetable Branch is not interested in promoting through propaganda, or otherwise, any specific type of labeling. We are interested in doing those things which are advantageous, both to the consumer and to your industry, as I said, but insofar as what you put on that label, as long as it is true to fact, we feel that our position as an inspection service should be to determine the grade, determine it fairly, and not to enter into arguments for or against whatever you may as an industry wish to put on your labels. We are not in favor of taking any steps which can be considered as interference in your business."

Mr. Baker subsequently expanded his remarks to the Board by emphasizing that the functions of the Branch, established by Congress and as applied to processed foods, were to develop and issue standards of grades, to inspect processed goods and issue grade certificates for them, and to provide continuous inspection in factories and plants. It would be the policy of the Branch to strengthen and perform these functions to the best of its ability and, without propaganda, to leave it to the discretion of the canner or the distributor the method by which he chooses to inform the consumer of the nature of his product. He re-emphasized his belief that truthful and practical information should be provided for the consumer and that the industry would benefit in the long-run by being forthright and frank with consumers.

Ceilings Off Canned Squid

Canned and frozen squid was exempted from price control effective May 22 by the Office of Price Administration.

Report on Efforts to Obtain Paper for Labels Discussed

The following report was scheduled for but not delivered before the Board of Directors but is reproduced below for the benefit of the Association's membership:

The National Canners Association, along with State and regional canner associations, was invited to attend a meeting on April 18 which was held by the Label Manufacturers Association to consider ways and means of dealing with the label paper shortage. Many of the State and local associations asked N.C.A. to represent them at this meeting. In addition to the canning industry, wholesale grocers and food chains were represented at the meeting.

The problem, as presented to the meeting by President J. P. Thomas and Secretary Charles R. Cosby of the Label Manufacturers Association, is mainly one of price inequalities between sheet and roll paper. The maximum price of sheet paper, which is used in making labels, has not been increased sufficiently to induce paper mills to produce it in the required quantities. Paper mills thus are turning more of their production of paper suitable for labels to roll paper used by publishing concerns.

Other reasons assigned for the shortage are insufficient supplies of casein and starch used in the coating of paper for quality labels and the fact that the production of some mills has been shifted exclusively to the manufacture of paper for magazine publishers. The shortage of casein also was said to be attributable to price inequalities that force skim milk production to go to the processing of powdered milk rather than to casein.

Following a discussion of the problem, R. A. Palen, Chief of the Containers and Packaging Division of the Department of Agriculture, was called into the meeting and asked to assist the Label Manufacturers Association and N.C.A. by presenting the problem to the Office of Price Administration and the Civilian Production Administration. Mr. Palen said he was aware of the situation and agreed to take the matter up with the agencies involved.

Following discussions with officials of OPA and CPA, Mr. Palen reported that OPA indicated a willingness to look into the question of price differentials between roll and sheet paper, but that such action would have to be requested by the paper mills. This information was passed on to the Label Manufacturers Association.

It is understood that several of the mills have recently gone to OPA with a request for a higher price for sheet paper but the status of these applications is not known at the present time. It also is understood that OPA has under consideration a general price adjustment on coated paper.

CPA officials reported to Mr. Palen and to N.C.A. that they could not undertake to regulate production or distribution of label paper. Their figures show an increase in the production of the paper from which labels are manufactured and they state that the mills are all operating at capacity.

Forthcoming Meetings

May 27-28—National Canners Association, Plant Sanitation Conference, San Diego Hotel, San Diego, Calif.

May 27-June 7—Food Processors Foundation, Cost Accounting Institute for Frozen Foods, College of the Pacific, Stockton, Calif.

June 2-4—Flavoring Extract Manufacturers Association, 36th Annual Convention, Drake Hotel, Chicago.

June 3—Michigan Canners Association, Spring Meeting, Traverse City.

June 10-11—Maine Canners Association, Summer Meeting, Lakewood.

June 17-18—Mayonnaise and Salad Dressing Manufacturers Association, Palmer House, Chicago, Ill.

June 17-19—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Mid-year Meeting, Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, Pa.

June 20—National Pickle Packers Association, Mid-year Meeting, Bismarck Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

June 21—Ozark Canners Association, Annual Spring Meeting, Colonial Hotel, Springfield, Mo.

July 10-20—Indiana Canners Association, Canning Technicians School, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

July 24-August 2—Association of New York State Canners, Inc., New York State Experiment Station, Canning Technicians School, Geneva, N. Y.

November 21-22—Indiana Canners Association, Inc., Fall Meeting, Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis.

December 4-5—Tri-State Packers Association, Annual Fall Convention, Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

December 10-11—Ohio Canners' Association, Annual Convention, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus.

March 3, 1947—National Association of Frozen Food Packers, Annual Convention, San Francisco, Calif.

USDA Meat Board Report

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended May 18 totaled 239,000,000 pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture Meat Board. This production was 6 percent below the 255,000,000 pounds in the preceding week and 12 percent below the 272,000,000 pounds produced the same week in 1945.

Ceilings Removed on Canned Spinach and Pickle Products

Frozen and canned spinach, excepting spinach soup and strained or chopped spinach sold as baby or junior food, and fresh cucumber pickles and certain pickle products have been suspended from price control for an indefinite period, the Office of Price Administration has announced. The action, which became effective May 22, was taken through the issuance of Amendment 29 to Supplementary Order 132.

The pickles and pickle products covered by Amendment 29 are pickles packed from fresh cucumbers, salt stock cucumbers, processed cucumbers, processed peppers, processed cauliflower and processed onions. ("Processed" means converted by processing from salt stock to the finished product.) The other pickle items covered by this action are relish and piccalilli, which are products made from one or more of the following cut vegetables: Cucumbers, green tomatoes, onions, celery, cabbage, cauliflower and peppers, OPA said.

Metal Can Shipments

Total shipments of metal cans during March, 1946, showed a 10 percent increase over the February shipments, according to a report released this week by the Bureau of the Census. During March, metal can shipments amounted to 146,085 short tons as compared with 133,183 short tons shipped during February. The March, 1946, figure was substantially below that for the same month of the preceding year but was greater than shipments for March, 1943, and 1944. The rise in March, 1946, activity over February was principally due to the increase in shipments of fruit and vegetable cans which went up 40 percent.

Almost four-fifths of all cans shipped during March, or 116,111 tons, were designed for the packing of food products. This represented a 15 percent rise from the 101,147 tons of food cans shipped during the previous month. However, shipments of nonfood cans declined to 29,974 tons from the 32,036 tons shipped during February.

Dry Lentil Ceilings Lifted

Domestic and imported dry lentils were suspended from price control for an indefinite period beginning May 22 by the Office of Price Administration. The action was taken through Amendment 30 to Supplementary Order 132.

Interim Subsidy Contracts to Be Available by June 15

Contracts for the 1946 interim subsidy program announced by the Department of Agriculture on May 17 (see INFORMATION LETTER for May 18, page 209) covering canned sweet corn, green peas, green pea soup, and tomatoes, tomato juice and all other tomato products, will be ready about the middle of June, USDA officials promised at the May 22 meeting of the Association's Board of Directors. Doubt still exists as to how sales of these commodities packed through June 30, 1946, must be consummated in order to entitle the processor to collect a subsidy from the Government, however, these details will be explained at an early date, USDA said.

The interim subsidy program is, in effect, a continuation of the 1945 subsidy program, although canners will be required to execute separate contracts under the program if they want to collect the subsidy.

Sales of All Canned Salmon Restricted by USDA Set-aside

Canners of certain species of salmon previously exempted from set-aside provisions of War Food Order 44, will be required to deliver to the government 33 percent of their pack from April 1, 1946, to March 31, 1947, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced May 16.

This action was taken in an amendment extending the order's provisions to include red, sockeye, or blueblack salmon packed in the continental United States, and king, chinook or spring salmon, and steelhead. All species of salmon now are included in the order, which provides for the purchase of canned fish for government, military and relief purposes.

The order was amended because of increased requirements by claimant agencies. It will have little effect on domestic supply as the additional set-aside will represent a small portion of the total pack, according to the Department.

Costa Rican Processing Plant

The Ministry of Agriculture and Industries in Costa Rica has granted an exclusive five-year contract to local American interests in that country for the establishment of a plant for the production of quick-frozen and canned domestic fruits as well as fruit concentrates and flavorings for ice cream, according to the Office of International Trade, Department of Commerce. The factory will be constructed within a year near Puntarenas.

For the duration of the contract the Costa Rican Government grants duty-free importation of machinery, spare parts and accessories, fuel oil and lubricants, supplies and raw materials except for sugar, fruits, lumber and other items available in Costa Rica. In addition, the company has been given guarantees against the lowering of customs duties on imported products similar to those to be produced. According to the terms of the contract, $26,700 must be invested in the new factory with not less than 66 percent of the cost of the finished products to be spent for Costa Rican labor and raw materials.

In accordance with Costa Rican law, 90 percent of the plant's employees will be Costa Ricans.

Death of Ralph Page

Ralph Page of the Fernando Canning Company, San Fernando, Calif., who was in the canning business approximately 40 years, died recently and was buried May 16 at Pomona, Calif. Mr. Page's firm and a previous canning company with which he had been connected—Pasadena Sunset Canning Company—were N. C. A. members. Mr. Page was active in Association affairs.

Henry F. Fortmann Dies

Henry F. Fortmann, 89, who was for 33 years president of the Alaska Packers Association, San Francisco, Calif., died on May 21. A pioneer in the salmon canning industry, Mr. Fortmann was an early member of the National Canners Association and was outstanding in his cooperation in N.C.A. affairs. Also he was very active in the organization of the Association of Pacific Fisheries and was regarded as one of the ablest men in the salmon industry.

Canner Trade Agreements Conferences Are Continued

Meetings of canners and members of the Foreign Trade Committee of the National Canners Association with government officials to explore the appropriate channels for presentation of the position of the various divisions of the canning industry under trade agreement policy were continued this week in a meeting with Harold McGowan, chief of the Department of Commerce's Trade Agreements Division.

Mr. McGowan explained that every division of the canning industry would be given the opportunity to present its case and to submit briefs in public hearings before the Committee on Reciprocity Information, an inter-departmental committee. In addition, industry representatives may secure an informal conference with this committee at any time for the purpose of presenting facts. This material is studied and any recommendations made by the committee would progress through the appropriate division within the State Department to the Secretary of State and thence to the President.

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